



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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August 2, 2001

NAEP Math Scores Highlight Need for Bush Education Plan

Today, the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math scores were released -- and they underscore the need to enact President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* education reform plan.

The most recent NAEP math scores show that only a quarter of U.S. fourth- and eighth-graders are proficient in math. Although national math proficiency levels are higher than they were in 1990, the 2000 results are still low: A mere 26 percent of fourth-graders and 27 percent of eighth-graders are proficient in math. Worse, the achievement gap between children of different racial and ethnic groups remains intolerably high; in fact, there's been no progress in reducing this achievement gap in the last decade.

However, there is a glimmer of hope in the NAEP state-by-state results released today: States that have serious testing, assessment, and accountability standards made impressive achievement gains from 1992 to 2000. Texas and North Carolina -- the states on which the President's education plan is most closely based -- led the nation in math and science achievement and improvement.

More clearly than ever, the Bush plan is the right agenda for America's children, particularly minority and disadvantaged students who for too long have been left behind.

Message of the Day

The most recent NAEP math results demonstrate that President Bush's plan is the right approach to education reform.

- ❑ *States with rigorous testing and accountability systems, like those in the Bush plan, are making the most progress.*
- ❑ *Today's NAEP results prove the importance of measuring progress among children of all backgrounds and holding schools accountable for results.*
- ❑ *The NAEP math scores demonstrate that President Bush's education reform plan offers hope to our nation's disadvantaged students.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The NAEP math scores released today show that the achievement gap between white and African-American students was 31 points among fourth-graders, 39 points in eighth grade, and 34 points in 12th grade.
- Between white and Hispanic students, the achievement gap was 24 points in 4th grade, 22 points in eighth grade, and 26 points among 12th-graders.
- In fourth-grade math, every racial/ethnic group in Texas performed better than their racial/ethnic peers in other states.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We're asking a lot of our schools and our teachers and our students; they have a big job ahead of them. And so do we, here in Washington. And now is the time, Congress, to get the job done." **President George W. Bush, August 1, 2001, National Urban League Conference speech**